

U.S. 2007 electricity output 2.8% higher than 2006, EEI says

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U.S. electricity output in 2007 increased 2.8% over 2006, for the first time surpassing 4 million GWh in a given year since the Edison Electric Institute began compiling reports 75 years ago.

Higher-than-normal cooling degree day totals helped to drive electricity output in 2007 to 4,100,612 GWh, EEI said in a Jan. 4 news release. During the week ending Aug. 11, 2007, electric output reached 96,954 GWh, just 1,629 GWh shy of the current record, which was set in August 2006. Seven of the nine EEI regions showed gains in electric output in 2007, with the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Northwest regions showing the largest year-on-year increases, at 6.4% and 5.1%, respectively. The South Central and Pacific Southwest regions decreased only slightly in 2007. For more on this story, go to www.snl.com, subscription required.